

RAILWAY WORKERS ASK LABOR BOARD

FOR A LIVING WAGE

Lauck, in Concluding Argument, Says Family of Five Needs \$2,500 Year.

Lauck's argument on the wage demands of the 2,000,000 railway workers of the country was concluded before the Railroad Labor Board today by W. J. Lauck, former secretary of the War Labor Board, appearing on behalf of the railroad brotherhoods and unions.

Mr. Lauck asked the board to

Early Decision Urged.

Early decision by the board was urged by Mr. Lauck, who declared that it was feared delay would mean serious disturbance to transportation. He asked the board to decide the question of whether railroad men were receiving a living wage at present without consuming too much time in studying the voluminous data prepared by the railroads. The cost to the railroads of the increases asked and the po-

At the end of the hearing Chairman Barton announced that the board would discontinue public hearings until May 17, when the board will be established in Chicago, unless it should be decided to grant a hearing to one application now pending. The application pending is understood to be from the American

Minimum of \$2,500 Needed.
A minimum of \$2,500 a year is needed.

Mr. Lauck yesterday charged corporate profiteers for present living costs. He presented to the board a compilation of budgets on the cost of living based on studies made under his supervision and by federal and state agencies.

"It is impossible," he said, "for a family of five in the United States to live on less than \$2,000 a year is necessary for the support of an American family of five, Mr. Lauck told the board."

to maintain itself even in decent poverty under existing conditions for a penny less than \$2,500 a year."

Figures Are Supported.

His estimate, he said, was supported by government agencies and quoted the estimate made by Prof. Royal Meeker, commissioner of labor statistics, in August, 1919. That estimate was \$2,262. The estimate for May, 1920, he insisted, should be \$2,532.

Mr. Lauck in his statement declared that "the fundamental cause of economic instability, all industrial unrest, all interruptions of production and distribution has been high prices and profiteering by organized capitalists and middlemen and retailers."

"Both during and since the war the public has been and now is virtual at the mercy of insatiable speculators and conscienceless financial ghouls."

Figures presented by Mr. Lauck before the board last night were characterized by the American Institute of Packers as "unreliable and an extravagant exaggeration so far as the industry is set forth profits in the industry."

"The only fair way of measuring packers' profits as to their effect on prices, and, therefore, as to whether the packer takes advantage of producers,"

ducer or consumer, is to compute the rate of profit per dollar of sales and per pound of products. If this amount were eliminated there would be a noticeable difference in retail prices. On a pound of product it amounts to only a fraction of a cent.

"It is true that the packers made a greater volume profit in 1918 than in 1914, but the compiler of the statistics submitted to the Railroad Labor Board has overlooked the fact that

\$500,000 IS APPROVED

TO FINISH KEY BRIDGE

**House Indorses Provision in Summer
dry Civil Bill for Additional
Appropriation.**

The House today approved the provision in the sundry civil bill appropriating an additional \$500,000 toward the completion of the Key bridge, which is being built by Army engineers to replace the old Aqueduct bridge at Georgetown. This sum, coupled with an item of \$150,000 heretofore made in the deficiency appropriation,

priation bill, makes \$650,000 of the amount authorized in the bill introduced by Representative R. Walter Moore of Virginia, which has some time ago favorably reported by the House committee on interstate commerce, and which is now on the calendar.

The original authorization, made prior to the war, was \$1,000,000, but because of the increase in the cost of

material and labor, the Moore bill raised the total to \$2,100,000.

Up to this time all of the work under water had been completed except one pier. About 40 per cent of the total work had been done. The total expenditure has been \$1,550,000, less about \$60,000, which is still on hand.

The plant for the construction of the work is entirely paid for, and whereas the outlay for that purpose is figured at \$1,000,000, the actual cost of the work under

in within the House committee feels that \$2,100,000 will carry the work to satisfactory completion.

SUBWAY AND TRACTION STRIKE IN PARIS CALLED

PARIS, May 8.—A general strike ordered effective Monday morning on al

**TURKS TO GET MONTH
TO CONSIDER TREATY**

PARIS, May 8.—The council of ambassadors today decided to give Turkey a month to consider the peace treaty.

which will be presented to the Turkish plenipotentiaries in the clock room at the foreign office next Tuesday afternoon.